

100 Homeless, One Dead in Hoboken Fire

\$250,000 to \$1,000,000 Damage as Blaze, Starting in K. of C. Clubhouse, Sweeps Apartment District

Several Firemen Hurt Assistant Secretary Trapped and Burned While Asleep; Flames Spread by Gale

Fire that started in the Admiral Benson Club, for service men, at 818 Washington Street, Hoboken, shortly after 10 o'clock yesterday morning, spread so rapidly that before the firemen were able to gain the upper hand the club, a church and an apartment house had been consumed, six more houses damaged and more than a hundred families turned out of their homes by the police.

For a time it appeared as though the flames, driven onward by a forty-mile gale, would overrun most of the city. All the fire apparatus in Hoboken was called, and when this proved insufficient, reinforcements were summoned from Jersey City.

One man, Walter Vance, assistant secretary, was trapped in the club and burned to death and several firemen were overcome by smoke or sustained minor cuts and bruises.

Damage May Be Million

The bitter cold made fire fighting particularly difficult. The spray from hose lines froze where it fell and ladders, hose and the outer garments of the men were sheathed in ice. Estimates of the damage run from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000.

William T. Mulachy, secretary of the club, which was built two years ago by the Catholic War Work Council, discovered the fire. He emerged from the cellar, where he had been to confer with some of the employees, to find the ground floor filled with smoke. He turned in an alarm and then returned to the basement, remaining there until all of the employees had escaped. His face and hands were badly scorched.

The club was a three-story, white pine structure. By the time the first engines arrived it was in flames and the flames, spouting up, were carried to the adjoining buildings, 814 and 822 Bloomfield Street. The flat houses at 822 and 824 Washington Street were also on fire.

Flames were spreading to the five-story brick apartment houses on each side of the club at 814 and 820 Washington Street. The latter was completely destroyed and the former partly.

Tenants Driven Into Streets

Fire Chief Gilday sent in a city call as soon as he arrived. Shortly thereafter the church's roof fell in and the flames, spouting up, were carried to the adjoining buildings, 814 and 822 Bloomfield Street. The flat houses at 822 and 824 Washington Street were also on fire.

The Jersey City Fire Department then was called on and apparatus was sent immediately. Police went through the dwellings for a block around and ordered all families to leave at once. Women and children who were turned out into the icy wind were sheltered in hospitals.

The arrival of the Jersey City engines threw the odds in favor of the firemen. They were able to hold the flames in check and after nearly three hours of desperate work, announced that they were under control.

It was then discovered that Vance, who had been on night duty and had gone to bed only a little while before the fire was discovered, was missing. Search of the ruins of the club last night disclosed portions of a human body, believed to have been his.

"Tiger" Suffers No Complications

X-Ray of Broken Rib Taken; Poincare and Renner Call on the Premier

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Premier Clemenceau was suffering inconvenience today from the broken rib which he sustained while on his trip to England last week. His general health, however, was found to be good by Drs. Tuffier and Laury, who made an examination today. They advised him to remain at home, nevertheless, owing to the fatigue which might be caused him by climbing the staircase at the Ministry of War.

The physicians made another X-ray examination of Premier Clemenceau this evening, after which they issued the following bulletin:

"The X-ray examination shows a fracture of the eighth rib on the left side, with a little displacement. There are no complications."

M. Clemenceau remained at home, but received President Poincare and Dr. Renner, the Austrian Chancellor.

U. S. Profits by Fire On Army Transport

Blaze Causing \$200,000 Damage on De Kalb Burns Wreckage

Fire which early yesterday burned away the entire interior fixtures of the army transport De Kalb, once the German liner Prinz Eitel Friedrich, did damage estimated at \$200,000 by Captain Gingham, of the United States Shipping Board, but it saved the government the expense of much labor.

The fire began amidships, and burned out the lower decks, cabins and entire equipment. The Shipping Board had planned to remove these before placing the boat in the South American service under the flag of the United States merchant marine. Consequently a lot of wrecking will not now have to be done, and, according to representatives of the Shipping Board, there will be no delay in putting the De Kalb into commission as a passenger carrier in July.

A preliminary inspection indicates, Captain Gingham said, that the fire originated in the old telephone room amidships. The section of the ship where the blaze started was completely burned out, and no official statement was made as to the cause. There was no evidence of incendiaryism, Shipping Board officials said.

Only One Ship Damaged In Storm Still Missing

American Vessel Davidson County Last Reported Drifting in Gulf Stream

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 15.—The United States Shipping Board steamer Davidson County, which lost her propeller Wednesday, was the only vessel not accounted for to-day among the severe reported damaged or in peril along the North Atlantic Coast following the storms of last week. Two more ships, the British schooners Falcon and Exilda, were stranded in yesterday's gales, with the loss of one life.

The United States Coast Guard steamer Apache is now searching for the Davidson County. The West Tugus, which had the damaged vessel in tow on Friday, suddenly sprang a leak and had to abandon her to rush to port for her own safety. The last word from the Davidson County was received Saturday, saying that she was drifting East in a gale, 480 miles south of Cape Race, in the middle of the Gulf Stream, with no rescue vessel in sight.

Policeman's Widow Aided

Members of the Officers' Association of the Police Reserve Contributed \$265 Last Night, When They Were Told at a Meeting at Police Headquarters that the City Had Made No Provision for the Widow and Children of John McCormack, a Probationary Patrolman, Who Was Killed by a Negro Recently While Performing His Police Duty.

Members of the Officers' Association of the Police Reserve contributed \$265 last night, when they were told at a meeting at Police Headquarters that the city had made no provision for the widow and children of John McCormack, a probationary patrolman, who was killed by a negro recently while performing his police duty.

Hylan "Smells a Mouse" In \$6.50 Milk Bill for Cat

Being a Board of Education Animal, His Honor Directs Hirshfeld to Get Busy and Find Out Who's Its Keeper and if It Lives on "Grade A"

Mayor Hylan yesterday directed his chief sleuth, David Hirshfeld, Commissioner of Accounts, to ferret out a possible steal in the maintenance of a cat in the Department of Education, for whose keep during the months of July, August and September a voucher for \$6.50 has just been presented. The jump in the tax budget of \$25,000,000 for 1920 startled the Mayor and his advisers, and he has let it be known that no predatory cat is going to "put anything over" on him. His letter to Commissioner Hirshfeld follows:

"I would like to find out what duties this cat performs for the people that would justify the city in paying its board during the vacation period. What is the salary of the person who looks after the welfare of the cat, and to whom does the cat belong? Is this cat provided for in the 1920 budget?"

When the attention of Anning S. Prall, President of the Board of Education, was called to the Mayor's letter, he said:

"I have been advised that a voucher was presented for the Mayor's signature this morning for the maintenance of a cat by the Department of Education."

tion. I have not been able to ascertain whether or not this is of the Angora, the Maltese or the yellow and black, back fence variety. Nor have I been able to ascertain whether or not the department is furnishing milk purchased in bulk, or whether it is feeding Maria with one of the superline grades of the Sheffield Farms company. Nor have I been able to ascertain who the official cat keeper is, nor whether the Board of Education makes it an official appointment or not.

"When the Mayor called my attention to the voucher my first impression was that perhaps this might have been added as a high school subject, and then I recalled a picture, entitled 'And the Cat Came Back.' That caused much merriment some years ago when a henpecked husband was ordered by his wife to drown a cat during the summer months. He put poor Maria in the local pond and it went down with a stone tied to its neck only to be returned by the ice man within a cake of ice the following summer.

"If this subject was 'Goats and How to Pet Them' I would be right at ease. There are many things one might say about cats, but please excuse me while I hunt up the cause of the voucher."

War Baby Buried At Sea Wrapped In American Flag

Child of A. E. F. Man and French Wife Dies Aboard Chicago; 40 Women Arrive to Claim Husbands

The first American war baby to die aboard ship was buried in mid-Atlantic during a heavy storm on December 4 from the deck of the French liner Chicago, which arrived yesterday from Bordeaux.

Stiff westerly gales hit the vessel a day after she left the French coast, and the violent weather hastened the end of the infant daughter of Walter Gray, of Waynesboro, Miss., who served in France with the postal service of the A. E. F.

Gray married a French girl eighteen months ago, and early in November a child was born to them. Despite the efforts of the ship's surgeon to save her, the infant died on December 4 and was buried that night at 8 o'clock. Although the weather was unusually severe and the seas high, the saloon passengers assembled on deck and stood by the couple as the body of their child, wrapped in an American flag, was lowered over the side.

On the Chicago came forty young French women who are to marry American soldiers who served in France. Among them was Miss Henriette Pelletier, who is engaged to Charles Ives, son of a manufacturer of Bridgeport, Conn.

The Baroness de Masieres, a French portrait painter, brought over thirty canvases of prominent Frenchmen, which she will exhibit in this city.

Among others on board were Monsignor Julian Conan, Archbishop of Haiti; Miss Gertrude Cooney, of Brooklyn, who served with the K. of C. in London, and Albert B. Mahoney, former county clerk of San Francisco, also a K. of C. worker, stationed at Base Hospital No. 53, at Langres.

Mr. Mahoney was designated by the

Police Plan Christmas Tree Will Introduce Santa Claus to Poor Children in Precinct

With the approval of Police Commissioner Enright, Captain Charles H. McKinney and the men of the Beach Street precinct are gathering contributions for a Christmas tree at the station house for the children of the neighborhood.

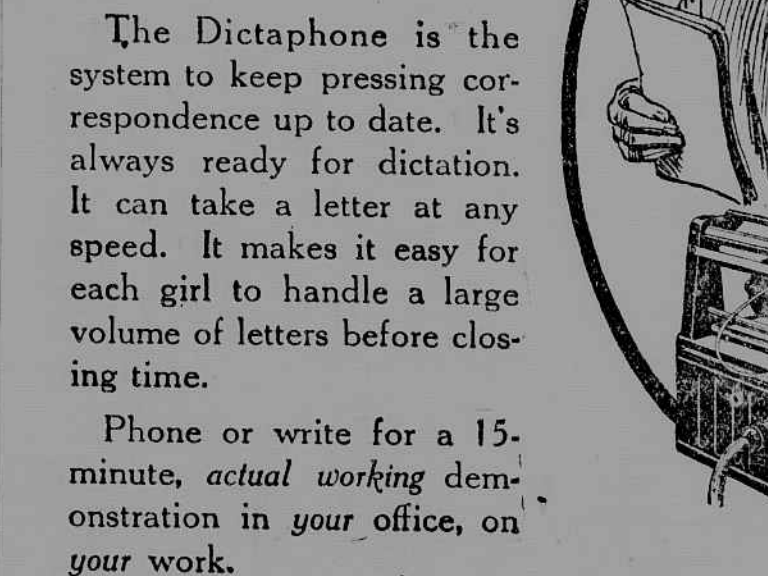
"We are getting," said Captain McKinney yesterday, "in the belief that the police should work not only for the safety but for the welfare and happiness of the community, and we are going to try cheer a lot of little people whose Christmas is limited usually to what they see in the shop windows."

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Swann Forces Open Hearings In Jury Inquiry

Continued from page 1

Court, writing an opinion in a situation similar to yours, says:

"A grand jury is not charged with the general supervision and regulation of public officials, and is not clothed with plenary powers in respect to the manner in which they shall perform their duty. Hence the institution of a general investigation by the grand jury ostensibly in the public interest, not inspired by reasonable grounds of belief that public officials have been guilty of wilful and corrupt misconduct in office, is not to be encouraged, even if it can be said to have any warrant in the law."

"Reasonable grounds" can only be predicated upon actual facts, and not upon surmises or guesses, nor from anonymous letters that are not evidence in any event. Judge Goff, in a case reported in 42 Miscel., at Page 685, said:

"The grand jury have not the power to institute or prosecute an inquiry on chance or speculation that some crime can be discovered. Such an inquisition, based upon mere suspicion, would be odious and oppressive, and would not be tolerated by our laws. There must be reason to believe that a crime of a specific character has been committed by a particular person whose name may be either known or unknown to the grand jury."

A grand jury has no general powers of censorship or supervision over their fellow citizens or public officials."

Battle Successor Named by Smith

J. M. Proskauer Appointed Grand Jury Adviser; Panel Asked for Results

The selection of Joseph M. Proskauer, of the law firm of Elkus, Vogel, Glenshaw & Proctor, 111 Broadway, to be special counsel to the extraordinary grand jury was announced by Governor Smith last night at City Hall.

The appointment of Mr. Proskauer, who is a member of the firm of which Abram I. Elkus, lately appointed Judge of the Court of Appeals, was the head, is designed to fill the gap left by the refusal of George Gordon Battle to serve as a special assistant District Attorney for the extraordinary grand jury. Governor Smith at his former offices in the City Hall last night read the following statement to the reporters:

"On the 11th of August I caused to be convened the extraordinary grand jury now sitting in New York County. This action was taken upon the request of the Attorney General of the state and the District Attorney of the county. The purpose of the call was to allow the District Attorney to present to the extraordinary grand jury evidence of criminal anarchy gathered by a legislative investigating committee appointed at the last session of the Legislature, commonly referred to as the Lusk Committee."

Evidence of Another Crime

"At a later date the District Attorney requested permission of the court to submit evidence of an alleged crime of conspiracy. The grand jury in the course of its investigation has given the public to understand that they have unearthed evidence of another crime in which public officials are concerned and they have requested me to make a superseding order putting the Attorney General of the State in the position of their legal adviser."

"Because I believe no legal reason has been shown I have declined their request. I did, however, following their own specific suggestion set forth in a motion unanimously adopted by them, request the District Attorney to appoint George Gordon Battle as his special assistant and assign him to the grand jury. While I am not in receipt

of any communication of any kind whatsoever from the jury, I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. Battle in which, among other things, he says:

"I should not be willing to accept this very important public duty unless certain of the cooperation of the grand jury. Any grand jury investigation to be effective must be carried on with complete union of purpose between the grand jury and the prosecutor acting as legal adviser. As I cannot be sure of this cooperation, I beg to withdraw my acceptance of the designation."

"According to rumor and from what I gather from the public press, I must feel that Mr. Battle, notwithstanding his conceded integrity and ability, was not satisfactory to the jury because they believed a close personal friendship existed between Mr. Battle and the District Attorney."

Cannot Name Attorney General

"Fully realizing my responsibility to the people of New York County in this matter and feeling that I cannot, with legal propriety, substitute the Attorney General for the District Attorney, I am, however, willing that the jury be aided in its endeavor to bring to light any conduct on the part of any public official which indicates that crime has been committed."

"At this end, and having in mind the statement of the District Attorney that he would appoint and assign to the jury any person suggested by me, I have this day requested that he appoint and assign to the extraordinary grand jury Joseph M. Proskauer, of New York."

"From personal knowledge of his ability and experience and from the reports in which I know him to be highly regarded by the judges of our courts, I am certain that he will conduct the investigations with impartiality and advise the jury with wisdom and fidelity."

"Grand juries, as well as public officials, lose much of their power for good when they have not full public confidence. The public had a right to assume that the man who was the unanimous choice of the jury was named to assist them that they would proceed. Assuming their reason for not desiring his service to be good, it surely cannot be that they should be disappointed. A patient public fed from day to day by rumors is anxious for results, if the extraordinary grand jury has the facts they will produce them, surely cannot expect that Mr. Proskauer as their counsel."

"I read with regret that the jury intends to take an extended recess. I believe that they should get down to work and make good. Confidence in public officials is essential to orderly government and anything that tends to shake that confidence should be cleared up in the public mind at the earliest possible moment."

Sends Letter to Swann

"In accordance with the ideas here expressed, I have this day forwarded to District Attorney Swann the following letter:"

"Hon. Edward Swann, District Attorney, New York County.

"My Dear Judge:

"Several weeks ago at my request you appointed George Gordon Battle as Special Assistant District Attorney and assigned him to the extraordinary grand jury. While I have no communication from the grand jury since that time Mr. Battle, by letter, informs me that he has requested you to withdraw his assignment and appointment on the ground that the jury feared that his friendship for you might embarrass him in the conduct of the investigation of your office."

"In order that no stone may be left unturned to put the whole proceeding squarely before the public and following your public statement that

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you would assign any person the Governor suggested, I hereby suggest that you appoint Joseph M. Proskauer, of 111 Broadway, New York City, as Special Assistant District Attorney and assign him to the extraordinary grand jury.

"I have absolute confidence in his ability and integrity and I feel that he is in a position to give the jury efficient and wholly disinterested legal advice."

"Yours sincerely,
"ALFRED E. SMITH, Governor."

Villa Slays Men Who Sought to Seize Him

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 15.—Gaston de Prada, a young sportsman known in New York and New Orleans, and who, with a companion, was said to have left New York recently with the intention of killing or capturing Francisco Villa, and thereby winning the \$50,000 offered by the government of Chihuahua State, was executed by the rebel leader, according to dispatches from Ciudad Juarez. Although this information has not been verified, the source is considered reliable by Mexican newspapers here.

International Longshoremen Ask Permanent Injunction

Supreme Court Justice Davis reserved decision yesterday on the application of the union to restrain the government from seizing ships.

The International Longshoremen's Association, which has been fighting a bitter battle with the government over the seizure of ships, asked the Supreme Court yesterday for a permanent injunction to restrain the government from seizing ships.

Justice Davis reserved his decision on the application of the union to restrain the government from seizing ships.

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